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|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No.           | Applicant(s)        |
|                               | 09/899,625                | KAPLAN, ALAN EDWARD |
|                               | Examiner<br>Allan Hoosain | Art Unit<br>2645    |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Examiner's Amendment.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5, 6, 8-29 and 31-40.
3.  The drawings filed on 7/5/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other See Continuation Sheet



Allan Hoosain  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2645

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: The indicated allowability of claims 16,29,31-44 in the 2/26/04 Office Action was withdrawn because of new prior art, Heer, US 5,974,142. Examiner and Applicant's Representative reviewed the prior art and agreed to the allowability of the claims as indicated in the instant office action..

#### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney **Henry T. Brendzel**, Reg. No. 26,844 on 2/17/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

Line 5, after "—second—" add "--,digital,--"

Line 10, after "—controller—" delete "—coupled—"

Line 10, after "—controller—" add "—connected—"

Claim 4:

Cancel claim 4

Claim 7:

Cancel claim 7

Claim 14:

Line 1, after “—arrangement—“ delete “—comprising—“

Line 1, after “—arrangement” add “—including—“

Line 3, after “—port—“ add “—and to said telephone answering system—“

Line 4, after “—output—“ add “--digital,--“ port

Line 8, after “—controller—“ delete “—for coupling—“

Line 8, after “—controller—“ add “—within said coupler for controlling—“

Line 9, after “—applied—“ delete “—by said first interface—“

Line 9, after “—applied—“ add “—to said telephone answering system—“

Line 10, before “—in response—“ delete “—circuit to said analog port—“

Claim 16:

Line 7, after “—port—“ add “—and adaptive to receive digital signals—“

Line 11, after “—controller--” delete “—for coupling—“

Line 11, after “—controller—“ add “—connected to—“

Claim 29:

Line 3, before “—network—“ add “—packet—“

Claim 35:

Line 3, before “—message—“ add “—digital—“

Claim 40:

Line 3, before “—message—“ add “—digital—“

Line 8, before “—response—“ add “—digital—“

Claims 41-44:

Cancel claims 41-44

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent Claims 1 and 16 recite limitations for encryption of signals in a telephone answering system using interface circuits and encryption modules and limitations for the following:

“a second interface circuit connected to said second, digital, port” and “a controller connected to said first interface circuit, said encryption module, and said second interface circuit”

The prior art of record teaches telephone answering system with interfaces and encryption modules but not with the connectivity and port-type indicated in the limitations.

Independent Claims 14,18 recite limitations for encryption of signals in a telephone answering system using interface circuits, a coupler and encryption modules and limitations for the following:

“a controller communicating digitally with said first port” and “an interface circuit interposed between said controller and said second port, for receiving said encrypted voice signal”

The prior art of record teaches telephone answering system with interfaces and encryption modules but not with the connectivity and port-type indicated in the limitations.

Independent Claim 29 recites limitations for encryption of signals in a telephone answering system using user devices connected to a packet network and limitations for the following:

“a first coupler that encrypts signals sent out by said user device to form encrypted signals and forward the encrypted signals to said network”

The prior art of record teaches telephone answering system with interfaces and encryption modules but not with the coupler and network-type limitations.

Independent Claims 35 and 40 recite limitations for encryption of signals in a telephone answering system using user devices connected to a packet network and limitations for the following:

“encrypting stored messages received at said second port in response to said response messages to form encrypted messages” and “communicating said encrypted messages to said first port”

The prior art of record teaches telephone answering system with interfaces and encryption modules but not with the coupler and network-type limitations.

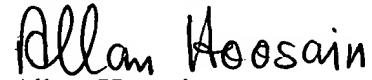
New search updates revealed no other prior art which teaches the limitations in the context of the claims. Therefore claims 1-3,5-6,8-29,31-40 are indicated allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Allan Hoosain** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday-8 am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Fan Tsang** can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Allan Hoosain  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2645